

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****DEC 08 2006****REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 4-20, 22-25, 27-43 and 45-48 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 21, 26, 44 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 98/07022 to Ramm et al., (hereinafter "Ramm") in view of WO 00/05571 to Dixon et al., (hereinafter "Dixon").

In response, claims 1-3, 21, 26, 44 and 49 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-3, 21, 26, 44 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Furthermore, new claims 50-91 have been added to further define the patentable invention. New claims 50-91 are fully supported in the original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the addition of new claims 50-91. Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claims 50, 74 and 90 patentably distinguishes over the prior art and is allowable and that claims 51-73, 75-89 and 91 are at least allowable as being dependent therefrom.

For the convenience of the Examiner, new independent claims 50, 74 and 90 include features similar to those recited in original allowable claims 38, 45 and 33, respectively. Furthermore, new dependent claims 68-73, 91, 82-85 and 56-61 include features similar to those recited in original allowable claims 4-20, respectively. Still further, new dependent claims 78-81 features similar to those recited in original allowable claims 22-25,

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

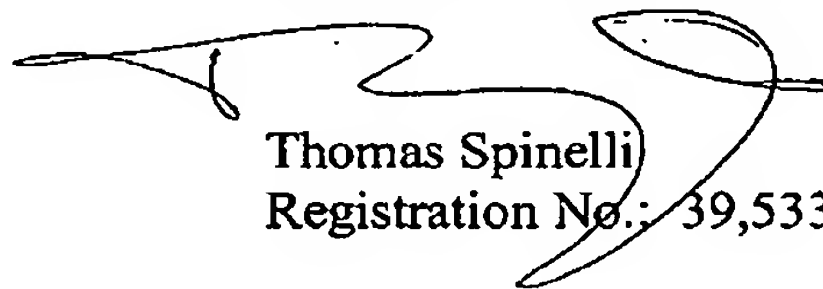
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

respectively, and new dependent claims 62-67, 86-89 and 51-55 recite features similar to those recited in original allowable claims 27-32, 34-37 and 39-43, respectively. Lastly, new claims 75-77 recite features similar to those recited in original allowable claims 46-48, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims of record recite allowable subject matter and should be allowed.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli
Registration No.: 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343
TS:cm:ae

BEST AVAILABLE COPY